

Message Text

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PARIS FOR ASST SECRETARY ENDERS
LONDON FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ

FOL REPEAT OF ROME 9331 TO SECSTATE INFO CAIRO USUN JUN 28

QTE:
UNCLAS ROME 9331

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNWFC
SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, FOURTH DAY - MINISTERIAL LEVEL

REF.: A) ROME 9215
B) ROME 9093

/SUMMARY:/ FULL DAY OF DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 6 INVOLVED 25
CLUNCIL MEMBERS AND 4 OBERVERS. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON SPOKE
DURING MORNING SESSION AND PREPARED STATEMENT DISTRIBUTED TO
PRESS ATTENDING COUNCIL. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TENDED FEATURE
FOOD AID AND FERTILIZERS ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN EMPHASIZING
INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THIS IS IN CONTRAST TO EMPHASIS
GIVEN BY MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS WELL AS U.S. AND USSR.
THE FAO AD HOC REPORT ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY WAS GENERALLY
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SUPPORTED. CANADA (MEMBER) AND NETHERLANDS (OBSERVER)
EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH DIFFUSE DISCUSSION AND LACK OF
PROGRESS AND STRESED NEED FOR CLEARER DEFINITION AND NARROWER
FOCUS FOR COUNCIL ACTIVITIES.

/END SUMMARY./

1. DEBATE CONTINUED FOR A FULL DAY WITH 25 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, TWO OBSERVER COUNTRIES AND THE UNDP AND EEC SPEAKING TO THE CURRENT WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND THE CRITICAL ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE COUNCIL.

2. MOST COUNTRIES CONTINUED TO ADDRESS THEIR COMMENTS TO AGENDA ITEM 6, NAMELY (I) FOOD AVAILABILITY FOR MSA COUNTRIES, (II) MEETING THE 10 MILLION TON FOOD AID TARGET, (III) STEPS TO IMPLEMENT THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON FOOD SECURITY, (IV) MINIMUM IMPORT^{4317843.3,5} OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR SHORT-TER FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE REQUIREMENTS, AND (V) THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL ADJOURNED SESSION AT 11:30 A.M. FOR MEETING OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO MOVE DEBATE FORWARD SO MEETING COULD FOCUS ON FUTURE PROGRAM OF WORK OF COUNCIL. HOWEVER, DEBATE RESUMED IN LONG AFTERNOON SESSION SO AGENDA ITEMS RELATING TO PROGRAM OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL AND ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE DEFERRED TO MORNING SESSION ON FINAL DAY.

4. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON DELIVERED U.S. OPENING STATEMENT AT CLOSE OF MORNING SESSION. STATEMENT REDRAFTED PRIOR TO DELIVERY TO:

--EMPHASIZE NEED FOR FOCUS ON STEPS TO MEET FOOD PROBLEM RATHER THAN RHETORIC ABOUT NATURE OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS AMONG STATES,
--DEFINE ACCELERATING GROWTH OF FOOD PRODUCTION IN LDC'S AS CORE OF SOLUTION,

-- DEMONSTRATE HOW U.S. IS TAKING LEADERSHIP IN CRITICAL AREAS OF PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE, INTERIM FOOD AID AND FOOD SECURITY SCHEME.

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--FOCUS COUNCIL'S ATTENTION ON ITS ROLE AS BODY BEST ABLE TO IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND MEANS FOR OVERCOMING GAPS AND LAPSES IN WORLD-WIDE EFFORTS TO MEET FOOD NEEDS.

USIS ISSUED PRESS SUMMARY OF STATEMENT WITH COPY TO WASHINGTON VIA RUEHFO CHANNEL.

5. MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STRESSED THE NEED FOR FOOD AID AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE 10 MILLION TON MINIMUM ANNUAL TARGET OF GRAINS WOULD BE MET. SEVERAL COUNTRIES STRESSED THE NEED FOR A THREE-YEAR FORWARD PLANNING PROGRAM FOR FOOD AID. THERE WAS A TENDENCY FOR THESE SAME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO LOOK AT THIS COUNCIL SESSION AS A FORUM TO STATE THEIR FOOD AID

NEEDS WITH HOPES THAT DONORS MIGHT INCREASE THEIR PLEDGES.
TO SOME EXTENT THIS VIEW WAS JUSTIFIED AS STATEMENTS BY SEVERAL
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REPORTED THEIR CURRENT FOOD AID CONTRIBUTIONS
TO MSA COUNTRIES.

6. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GENERALLY DEPLORED THE HIGH COST OF FERTILIZERS, SUPPORTED THE INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER SCHEME OF FAO AND URGED ITS CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION. WHILE CLAMORING FOR EXPANSION OF FERTILIZER PRODUCTION, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FAILED TO REFLECT INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN THE REPORT OF THE FAO COMMISSION ON FETILIZERS THAT PRICES OF FERTILIZERS HAVE DROPPED RECENTLY AND ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY WOULD SOON BE IN OPERATION.

7. MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HELD OUT HIGH HOPES FOR THE EARLY CREATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, SOME EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES FOR THE INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR THE FUND.

8. AFTER A BRIEF POLITICAL INTRODUCTION, WHICH INTER ALIA REFERRED TO NEED FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE, THE STATEMENT OF THE USSR DELEGATION EMPHASIZED THAT INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION WAS FIRST AND OF FOREMOST IMPORTANCE CITING (A) SUBSTANTIVE INCREASES IN INVESTMENT IN USSR AGRICULTURE, INCLUDING PLANNED EXPANSION OF GRAIN STORAGE, (B) EXPANSION OF THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR THROUGH MORE RATIONAL FEEDING PRACTICES AND (C) INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH BETTER CROP YIELDS BY USE OF IMPROVED VARIETIES, MORE FERTILIZER, EXPANDED IRRIGATION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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MECHANIZATION. STABILIZATION OF WORLD PRICES WAS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT BY THE USSR TO PROTECT BOTH DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND EFFORTS SHOULD BE CHANNELLED THROUGH COMMODITY GROUPS. THE USSR DELEGATE COMMENTED THAT WHILE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS WERE MANY-SIDED AND COMPLEX, HE STATED HIS COUNTRY WOULD COOPERATE.

9. THE CANADIAN DELEGATE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT ABOUT THE DIRECTION THAT THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WAS GOING. HE INDICATED THAT WFC SHOULD (A) MONITOR THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION IN ALL ASPECTS, (B) LOOK AT THE TOTAL PICTURE TO COORDINATE FOOD.....
-58;8583 , (C) JUDGE WHERE THERE ARE GAPS IN THE STRATEGY. THE COUNCIL COULD DO THIS WITH A SMALL STAFF OF COMPETENT PEOPLE, BE ASSISTED BY FAO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND OBJECTIVELY REVIEW WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING TO SOLVE THE FOOD PROBLEM. HE CONCLUDED BY STRESSING THE NECESSITY OF THE COUNCIL GETTING FUNCTIONS AND PRIORITIES STRAIGHT.

10. IN A LATE INTERVENTION AS AN OBSERVER, THE NETHERRLANDS INDICATED THAT THE COUNCIL NEEDED TO CONSIDER ITS METHODS OF WORK BY LIMITING THE AGENDA, HAVING PROPER PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTATION, RELATE TO THE WORK OF OTHERS AND THEIR

REPORTS.

11. THE AD HOC REPORT ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY AND THE FAO UNDER-TAKING WAS SUPPORTED BY JAPAN, UNITED KINGDOM, PAKISTAN, EGYPT, CANADA, AND INDIA. KENYA AND INDONESIA STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD STORAGE AND INDICATED NEED OF ASSISTANCE. INDIA INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SHARE EXPERIENCE IN BUILDING FOOD RESERVES. AUSTRALIA GAVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO STOCK HOLDING POLICIES AND THEIR EFFECT ON PRICES.

12. LARDINOIS OF EEC INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION WISHES TO CONTINUE TO PLAY PART AS OBSERVER IN FUTURE MEETINGS AND INDICATED WASYS EEC COULD BE HELPFUL TO COUNCIL. HE SPOKE ON FOOD AID BUT AVOIDED ANY COMMITMENTS TO INCREASE FOOD AID AT THIS TIME. ON THE PREVIOUS DAY THE UK ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE AND SUPPORT INCREASED FOOD AID AND SHARPLY CRITICIZED FELLOW MEMBERS IN EEC FOR HAVING REFUSED TO INCREASE FOOD AID. VOLPE UNQTE INGERSOLL

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